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To: News Editors

From: Gregory W. Smith, CRPS, PIO, OMD

Date: March 6, 2008

Subject: PRESS RELEASE

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In response to the class action complaint filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) upon the Department of Corrections, for inadequate medical treatment of inmates housed at the Ely State Prison, officials make the following statements:

"We are shocked by this development. On March 5, 2008 Director Howard Skolnik sent a proposal to ACLU representatives suggesting that the Nevada State Medical Association be consulted to identify a group of physicians that can objectively review our operations in an impartial manner."

"The Director firmly believes that the medical care at Ely state prison is more than adequate."

"The department has been acting in good faith with the ACLU to acquire a neutral medical expert and we are very disappointed at these latest developments. We have been making every effort to avoid a potentially lengthy litigation which will become a burden on the State of Nevada tax payer."

"We are very disappointed that the ACLU chose to discuss their intentions with the media prior to advising the department."

END OF RELEASE